

Nursing Workforce Diversity

Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: there is an editing error on page 5 of the FOA. It should be that the Project Director for the NWD projects must be a licensed Registered Nurse. Also, on page 15- it should read that the Project Director must have NWD experience.

Eligibility, Preferences, and Program

1. Am I eligible to apply for the NWD funding opportunity announcement (FOA)?

Eligible applicants include accredited schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, and other private or public entities determined appropriate by the Secretary. Eligible faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and Tribes and Tribal Organizations can apply for these funds if otherwise eligible (page 4-5 of the FOA).

2. What nursing degrees does the NWD program support?

The goals of the NWD program are consistent with the statutory authority provided in Title VIII to support projects that assist underrepresented students throughout the educational pipeline to become registered nurses, facilitate diploma or associate degree registered nurses becoming baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses, and prepare practicing registered nurses for advanced nursing education.

3. We currently have a NWD grant, are we eligible for this funding opportunity?

Yes, the focus of this FOA is integrating social determinants of health (SDOH) into workforce diversity strategies. New competitive applications should reflect new partnerships and SDOH strategies. Current grantees will be reviewed and go to objective review the same as other applicants, there is no competitive advantage.

4. Can I partner with another organization, like a school of nursing?

Yes, partnerships are allowed, including institutional partnerships. But the lead applicant must be an eligible accredited institution as indicated in #1 above.

5. Can an academic medical center partner with a school of nursing?

Yes. But the lead applicant must be an eligible accredited institution as indicated in #1 above.

6. Are new RN to BSN programs that have not undergone accreditation eligible to apply?

Newly established schools are eligible to apply if they have a reasonable assurance letter from the Department of Education. Applicants who fail to attach a copy of their accreditation letter or documentation of pending accreditation will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered for this funding opportunity. See page 15 of the FOA.

7. Are there preferences for specific types of applicants (i.e., community health providers, community colleges, bachelor programs over other nursing programs)?

The only funding preferences in this FOA are the statutory funding preferences described on pages 21-22 of the FOA. The three funding preferences include: (1) substantially benefits rural populations; (2) substantially benefits underserved populations; and (3) helps meet the public health nursing needs in state and local health departments.

8. Are veterans considered to be a disadvantaged or underrepresented population?

Veteran status alone is not considered an educational or economic disadvantage or an underrepresented (including racial and ethnic minorities) population. However, veterans who are racial and ethnic minorities or educationally or economically disadvantaged are eligible participants.

9. Do we need to have both a pre-entry and retention cohort?

No.

10. Can an institution submit more than one application?

No, only one application per institution is allowed.

11. There are changes in the 2014 FOA from previous ones; should I compare this FOA with previous ones?

No, the 2014 NWD FOA is a stand-alone funding announcement.

Social Determinants of Health (SDH)

12. Is there a specific document for reference regarding the social determinants framework?

There are no specific SDH references required to be used as resources for application development. You can, however, refer to the footnotes on page 1 of the FOA for additional information on this framework.

Budget and Grants Management

13. Is the funding limit \$50,000 for both scholarships and stipends?

The scholarship award to each student may not exceed \$10,000 per budget period. Each applicant organization may request up to \$50,000 maximum for scholarship funds to support eligible nursing students. For stipends, the budget narratives must indicate the stipend rate (for example, \$500 a month) and the number of stipends to be awarded in the total stipend amount for each educational level as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the applicant to justify the basis for the stipend rate requested. The maximum annual (12

month) amount for stipends is \$10,000 per student and is to be pro-rated and paid to eligible participants at regular intervals during the budget period. Refer to pages 12-13 of the FOA for more information.

14. Are students enrolled in accelerated second-degree BSN programs eligible to receive scholarships and/or stipends?

Yes.

15. If the student is enrolled and is a nursing major but is not yet in their clinical course phase, can the student receive a scholarship?

Yes.

16. Can the same student receive \$10,000 in scholarships plus \$10,000 in stipends?

Yes.

17. Can you compare the limitations between stipends and scholarships?

Each applicant organization may request up to \$50,000 (maximum) for scholarship funds.

The scholarship amount awarded to each student may not exceed \$10,000 per budget period. The maximum annual (12 month) amount for stipends is \$10,000 per student and is to be prorated and paid to eligible participants at regular intervals during the budget period. See pages 12-13 of the FOA.

18. If we create or augment a pipeline program for high school students, can we give them scholarships and/or stipends?

Stipends and scholarships are not allowed for high schools students who are not enrolled in an accredited degree granting institution. See pages 8-9 of the FOA.

19. What is the indirect cost rate?

The indirect cost rate is 8%. The indirect cost guidelines are listed on page 12 of the FOA.

20. Is a State funded educational entity exempted from the 8% indirect cost rate?

No. A State funded entity must use the 8% indirect cost rate.

21. Does the \$350,000 ceiling include the indirect cost rate?

Yes.

22. Is the \$350,000 inclusive of stipends and scholarships?

Yes, the \$350,000 includes all NWD requested funds inclusive of direct, indirect and training costs.

23. Can stipends be used to pay for textbooks for pre-nursing or textbooks in general?

No, stipends may be used to pay for students general living expenses.

24. Should I budget for travel to a HRSA meeting/conference?

No, applicants don't need to budget for a designated HRSA meeting/conference. Budgeting for other meetings/travel is allowable.